Signet Adopts Transitional Theme

Portraying Dordt in transition, its growth and change, was chosen by the annual staff as the purpose of this year's SIGNET. Dot Vander Lugt is the editor and Judy Theune, assistant editor of the planned yearbook. Other members of the staff include Harry der Nederlanden, art editor; Rog Van Dyken, prose editor; Rosemary Dahm, managing editor; and Stan De Vries, business manager. Marla Douma, June Brink, Betty Hengeveld, Harriet Hoogwerf, Judy Schut, Marcia Van Andel, Connie Vanden Berg, and Bernice Walhof are also contributors.

Dr. Bodnar will be taking student pictures at Dordt sometime before Thanksgiving. Beginning with the freshmen, the class pictures will become progressively larger. Pictures of student activities will be taken by a professional photographer. However, the editor requests that any interesting snapshots that the students may have, be submitted to the staff.

Any student who pays the student activity fee is entitled to a copy of the SIGNET each September.

Cheerleaders
The Cheerleaders for 1963-1964 are Rose Joling, Judy Post, Judy Rozeboom, and Beverly Veurink.

Fawning Freshman: One thing I really admire about some of the profs here is that you can't get them in a corner.
Sagacious Sophomore: Of course not; they're always talking in circles!

Student Representatives Elect Officers

The student representatives recently elected two juniors as their officers. Elroy Post was chosen as president and Mavis Assink was selected secretary of the organization. The nine student representatives meet "regularly" to work out the problems and to meet the needs of the student body.

Dorm Phones Connected

To all interested: the Dorm phones are now connected and the number to call is 72-2-0411.

THALIANS MAKE "ADMIRABLE" PREPARATIONS

On Wednesday, November 20, and Friday, November 22, the Thalians will present "The Admirable Crichton." This play, written by J. M. Barrie, is a comedy concerning the relationship of the butler, Crichton, to his master, Lord Loam. Once a month Lord Loam gives a tea for the servants, at which he and his daughters serve. The opening act of the play deals with this tea. Since Lord Loam is unaccustomed to being a servant, humorous situations are likely to occur and do.

The opening of the second act finds Lord Loam and his servants on a yacht cruise. When they are shipwrecked and stranded on an island, Lord Loam is at a loss what to do to remain alive. Therefore, Crichton takes over and manages things as only a butler can. We leave it up to you to find out what happens after their unhappy rescue.

Misstatement Revised

Mr. Van Til believes that he was misquoted in the statement attributed to him in the last issue of the DIAMOND. It read, "Mr. Van Til states that our country is the only one in the world where supporters of private schools do not receive tax refunds or any aid for their schools." Mr. Van Til points out that the statement suggests that all other countries do give aid, which is not the case. Given the latter form, the statement also becomes the kind of positive universal categorical assertion which logicians deplore.

Mr. Van Til would substitute the statement, "Our country is one of the FEW countries which do not give any kind of substantial aid to private schools."

"... An' Over That'away You Can See Orange City!"


Editorial

—Sandy Williamson

Ideally, each person attending Dordt has come here to receive an education. A superficial survey would seem to confirm this as the actual situation. All of us are attending classes, writing papers, and taking exams. Certainly then, we must be acquiring an education!

However, Robert M. Hutchins declares that

“We (in our modern times) do not know what education could do for us, because we have never tried it.”

Perhaps he is correct. Perhaps we are missing education because we have developed a vague or erroneous concept of it. Webster calls education the training or discipline of the mind and character through study. Are most of us undergoing such a comprehensive process as we struggle through our courses? Are we training our minds and characters—are we learning self-discipline; if not, could it be because we are not really studying?

Diligent students are ridiculed because they study so much. Furthermore, there are still “students” at Dordt who waste many hours playing cards and engaging in similar activities; often they feel compelled, as a consequence, to study on God’s day. These are not persons whose minds and character are being disciplined or improved; if anything, they are being dissipated by the cultivation of valueless amusements and undiscerning attitudes.

Even if you are not guilty of these offenses, you may still fail to leave Dordt with an education. A person can learn many facts and receive a degree, but if he has not studied with conscious endeavor to train and improve his whole “self” he will not derive his “money’s worth.”

Our Christian college was founded because there were wise people who knew the true meaning of education and realized that Christians need to have their minds and characters trained through God-centered study. We are fools indeed if we waste this opportunity.

—by Roger L. Van Dyken

“Soldiers are everywhere here in Saigon, light is just beginning to streak the sky; the people of Saigon are in the streets wildly cheering, climbing upon the tanks entering the courtyard of the Presidential palace, and hailing the military as liberators.” So spoke a foreign news correspondent from Saigon the day of the revolution.

Thus, one more military coup has gone down on the pages of world history. Former Viet Nam President Ngo Dinh is presently reported to be dead either by murder or by suicide.

Obviously, the late president was not universally popular even in his own city. His anti-Buddhist policies (Viet Nam is 80% Buddhist) alienated the majority of Vietnamese from his cause of annihilating the Communist Viet Cong. For this reason the United States government has often expressed disapproval of his policies, and the blistering little monologues of Madame Nhu have cast another shadow on the already dark image of the former president.

A member of a study group in Viet Nam, a California Congressman, reports from firsthand knowledge of the now-ruling military leaders that they are in a sense capitalists, but are not at all in keeping with our democratic traditions.

Even though it is headed by a Buddhist, let us not be hasty in endorsing this new regime because of its professed capitalism. Six years ago Castro not only endorsed capitalism but loudly professed his goal to establish democracy. The all-wise words of Christ are very pertinent in this sphere also: “By their fruits shall ye know them.” We must determine by their actions rather than by their words whether these men of the newly formed government of Viet Nam will be our allies in our unceasing struggle against Communism, or whether they will, like Castro, betray our trust, and join the forces of the enemy. They cannot be neutral, for men are either for freedom or against it, either for Christian principles of liberty or against them. There is no middle ground between right and wrong. In this light we shall presently judge the events of the past few days.

. . . . .

Dilemma presently disturbing the Kremlin: Where to get the wheat when the whole world is Communist.

—TIME
The Test-Troubled Student

O, say, are you done, by the dawn's early light
With the homework begun at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad thoughts and details
Through the study-filled night,
To our cranium's void were so sluggishly streaming?
And the rockets' red gaze, the words floating in haze,
Give proof through the night that our lamp's still alight.

On the desk, dimly seen, through the mists of sweet sleep,
Where the book's open page in dread a silent vigil keeps,
Lies the notes that we wrote in the classroom last week.

-Sandra Williamson

As we fitfully doze, and each lid slowly closes.
Then we notice the gleam of the morning's first beam.
And we wake quite dejected, then start (!) with a scream!

Oh, thus is it ever when mid-term exams
Bring cramming and worry and sore desolation.
What wonderful peace will follow the crams
If we just can survive-what a thrill of elation!
Then pass them we must, lest we flunk in disgust,
And this be our motto: "No prof do we trust!"

-Simon the Sage

Dear Gary,

Only the weatherman knows!

Simon
"Physical Fitness" is no longer a term that is used by professional physical educators only, but is rapidly finding its way into many American homes. Much is being said about the lack of physical fitness in the majority of American youth.

There is also much emphasis now placed on the advantages that many youngsters in Europe have in comparison to their American counterparts in terms of physical stamina. For this issue Mr. Calsbeek, who visited the Scandinavian countries in 1962, and studied first-hand the physical education programs being carried out there, has given us a report of his studies.

"What, Mr. Calsbeek, were the most noticeable differences between physical education programs in Norway and those found in the United States?"

"To begin with, as this interview is on a highly technical topic, it is just finding its way into many American homes. It may not be very significant. However, I will tell you my impressions.

"Great stress is placed upon formal gymnastics. Norwegians do a "bang-up" job in this area. Children in the lower classes begin rather vigorous programs in gymnastics. I feel that the big push at this level is the development of basic attitudes which will help the children to enjoy almost anything physical. Great stress is placed on any activity that maintains the high degree of flexibility which youngsters at that age have. This is one of the reasons that they have excelled in the gymnastics field."

"Is gymnastics all that is found in Norway's school physical education programs?"

"Oh, no! It is their major emphasis. However, there are also team games, swimming, skating, ice skating, and many other activities. Notice the big muscle groups that are involved in these activities. It is interesting to observe that their programs are undergoing changes, too. This was mentioned to me by several physical educators there. They feel that they have neglected the development of sports such as basketball, baseball, and volleyball. Therefore, they are stressing these activities. Here, of course, is where the youngsters in the U.S. are strongest."

"What about interscholastic sports in Norway?"

"There is very little athletic competition among the schools there. It is all done outside of the school through the medium of the athletic clubs, which are highly popular. The reason for their success is the fact that nearly all teachers have given good support and much leadership in this program. Most of these clubs, are then organized into groups that we would call leagues."

"Did you notice any weaknesses?"

"Yes, one of the most noticeable was the inability to use the throwing skills necessary for such games as basketball and baseball. This, I feel, is part of the reason they are beginning to stress throwing games more. Also, the social implications of physical education were certainly missing from many programs because of the very rigid manner in which classes were conducted. There was little opportunity that I could see for social interaction."

"What were the facilities for physical education like?"

"Most indoor facilities were good for their type of programs. Their greatest facility, however, was the great out-of-doors, and they used that to the maximum."

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**Athletes' Feats**

—by Dale Claerbaut

With nearly a month of practice behind them, Coach Calsbeek's basketball squad is starting to take shape. The team has suffered several blisters, a sprained ankle, broken glasses, and many bumps, bruises, and sore spots. At times the action appeared somewhat limited on T.V., but not exactly, since it is not on T.V. However, out of it all has developed a team with physical stamina and high spirits.

The eleven freshmen still out for practice have noticed several differences between high school ball and college practice. In this issue, we shall continue to introduce the squad: three freshmen have commented briefly on some of these differences.

Bud Den Ouden: "I think the main difference is that college basketball is rougher, especially under the boards! I also think that our drills are more complex."

Sid Halma: "I think college basketball practices more is expected of the individual. The competition for team positions is keener. Practices are fast moving, rougher, and require 100% effort."

Gary Kamps: "I find college basketball more of a team effort than an individual effort. College basketball is a lot faster than high school ball, too."

Gary, the tallest member of the squad, comes to Dordt from Manhattan Christian High. Manhattan, Montana. He lettered in basketball and badminton. He is the only Canadian on the team.

Although Dordt's first basketball game is still three weeks away, there will be a full schedule of games once the season begins. On December 2, 6, and 9, Dordt will host Freeman, Worthington, and Wessington Springs, respectively. Then the team will travel to Estherville and Emmetsburg on December 12 and 16, for its first two road games. Plan now to back your team.

An atheist and a clergyman were involved in a religious discussion.

The minister challenged the atheist's dogmatism.

"How is it," he said, "you can be so sure Of your stand? Where do you get The information about the God you deny?"

"Well," said the atheist blandly, "You should know how it is; There are some things You just have to accept By faith."

—The Old Chinese Philosopher